

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02206 171407Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 DLOS-09 /084 W
-----025865 171409Z /53

O P 171302Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4990
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2206

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, US
SUBJ: TEXT OF ALLEGED STATE DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM TABLED BY
PAPANDREOU IN PARLIAMENT

REF: ATHENS 2205

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE TELEGRAM WHICH PASOK
LEADER PAPANDREOU TABLED IN THE PARLIAMENT MARCH 17
(REFTEL):

2. R082057Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
RUFHNA/US NATO BRUSSELS
BT
CONFIDENTIAL STATE
E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: PFOR GR TU US
SUBJECT: GREECE-TURKEY AEGEAN DISPUTE
1. THE DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY OVER THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN REMAINS ACUTE AND
COULD STILL ESCALATE INTO A SERIOUS CONFLICT. THE
CAUTION IMPOSED ON GREECE BY CIRCUMSTANCES MAY HAVE
POSTPONED THE DANGER, BUT IT STILL EXISTS.

2. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE FAVORABLE TO ITS CLAIMS ON PARTS OF THE AEGEAN BASED ON ITS INTERPRETATION OF THE 1958 GENEVA CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT ALTHOUGH MINDFUL OF WORLD OPINION IS PREPARED TO SUSTAIN ITS OWN CLAIMS BY DIRECT ACTION EXEMPLIFIED BY THE CASE OF SISMIK 1.

3. THE UNITED STATES STANDS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION BETWEEN THE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSITE CLAIMS OF TWO VALUABLE ALLIES. THE ANKARA GOVERNMENT KNOWS THAT TURKEY DUE TO ITS GREATER STRENGTH AND GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION CARRIES MORE WEIGHT THAN GREECE IN THE WESTERN DEFENSE SYSTEM. IT THEREFORE EXPECTS CORRESPONDINGLY MORE GENEROUS TREATMENT IN RESPECT OF FAVORS IN THE AEGEAN. FOR THEIR PART, THE GREEKS ARE TRYING TO MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF THEIR OWN ASSETS, THE EXISTENCE OF POWERFUL U.S. INTERESTS IN GREECE AND THE LEVERAGE OF THE GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES TO GET AMERICAN PRESSURE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON TURKEY.

4. THIS ASSESSMENT IS BORNE OUT BY A RECENT COMMUNICATION RECEIVED HERE FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. ALONG WITH ASSURANCES OF GREEK WILLINGNESS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS, THE COMMUNICATION ALSO THREATENED COUNTERMEASURES IF TURKISH ACTIVITY IN THE AEGEAN IS NOT STOPPED. (END PAGE 1)

(BEGIN PAGE 2.)

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5. THE CHIEF FACTOR DETERMINING OUR STAND ON THE PROBLEM MUST BE U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS INTERPRETED IN THEIR BROADEST SENSE. AS OF NOW, THEY REQUIRE US TO ENCOURAGE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, HOWEVER INTRACTABLE THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED. DIFFICULTIES ARISE NOT ONLY BECAUSE SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS WILL BE REQUIRED FROM THE GREEKS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE TURKEY IS LIKELY TO STAND FIRM ON ITS DEMANDS IF NOT TO RAISE THEM. ANY U.S. PRESSURE ON TURKEY WOULD CAUSE STRONGLY ADVERSE REACTIONS AMONG NATIONALIST ELEMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ARMED FORCES.

6 IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE UNITED STATES CANNOT TAKE SIDES. WE WOULD RATHER CONCEDE TO OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES THE INITIATIVE OF MEDIATING IN THE AEGEAN DISPUTE. THE MOST WE CAN DO IS TO SUGGEST TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT THE ADVISABILITY OF ADOPTING A CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE IN RETURN FOR U.S. EFFORTS TO LIMIT TURKISH PRETENSIONS. THIS REQUIRES A CAREFUL APPROACH GIVING THE GREEKS NO PRETEXT FOR PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE UNITED STATES IN THE MATTER OF MILITARY BASES IN GREECE AT A TIME WHEN DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THEIR FUTURE

STATUS ARE STILL IN PROGRESS.

7. THIS POLICY OFFERS THE BEST WAY OF SECURING OUR
STRATEGIC INTERESTS FOR THE DURATION OF WHAT IS LIKELY
TO BE A PROTRACTED DISPUTE, PROVIDE NO EXTRINSIC
FACTORS INTERVENE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, TELECOMMUNICATION, ALLEGATIONS, MILITARY BASES, FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS02206
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780119-0383
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780357/aaaabvuv.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 75a517c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ATHENS 2205
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3297742
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEXT OF ALLEGED STATE DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM TABLED BY PAPANDREOU IN PARLIAMENT
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, US, CY, (PAPANDREOU, ANDREAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/75a517c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014